

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for controlling prepaid data services, the prepaid data services being divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

reserving resources from a prepayment system,

setting, by a rating device, an initial data delivery limit for each service group based on the resources and information about the charging criteria,

sending a message containing information about the initial data delivery limits from the rating device to a measuring device,

allocating, in the measuring device, proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, and

reallocating, in the measuring device, remaining resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, the new proportional data delivery limits being for use in delivery of data after a service group has exceeded its proportional data delivery limit.

2. A method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of defining a proportional data delivery limit for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

3. A method according to claim 2, comprising the further step of defining a pricing weight for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

4. A method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of sending a report from the measuring device to the rating device after all of the reserved resources are used.

5. A method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of defining the initial data delivery limit as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

6. A system for controlling prepaid data services comprising
a prepayment system hosting prepaid resources,
a rating device configured to obtain information of the prepaid resources and of charging criteria of service groups and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information, and

a measuring device configured to allocate proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, to measure the use of each of the service groups and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

7. A communication system configured for provision of prepaid services for the users thereof, the communication system comprising
at least one data communication network,
a prepayment system hosting prepaid resources,

a rating device configured to obtain information of the prepaid resources and of charging criteria of service groups and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information, and

a measuring device configured to allocate proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, to measure the use of each of the service groups and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

8. A communication system in accordance with claim 7, wherein the at least one data communication network comprises a packet core communication network for communication of data between users and the measuring device and a public data network for communication of data between the measuring device and providers of the prepaid services.

9. A controller for controlling prepaid data services, the prepaid data services being divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, the controller comprising:

reserving means for reserving resources from a prepayment system,

setting means for setting, by a rating device, an initial data delivery limit for each service group based on the resources and information about the charging criteria,

sending means for sending a message containing information about the initial data delivery limits from the rating device to a measuring device,

allocating means for allocating, in the measuring device, proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, and

reallocating means for reallocating, in the measuring device, remaining resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, the new proportional data delivery limits being for use in delivery of data after a service group has exceeded its proportional data delivery limit.

10. A controller according to claim 9, further comprising defining means for defining a proportional data delivery limit for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

11. A controller according to claim 10, further comprising second defining means for defining a pricing weight for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

12. A controller according to claim 9, further comprising sending means for sending a report from the measuring device to the rating device after all of the reserved resources are used.

13. A controller according to claim 9, further comprising defining means for defining the initial data delivery limit as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

14. A rating device for controlling prepaid data services into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, the rating device being configured to obtain information of prepaid resources reserved from a prepayment

system and of charging criteria of service groups of prepaid data services and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information and to send a message containing information about initial data deliver limits to a measuring device.

15. A measuring device for controlling prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, the measuring device being configured to allocate proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, to measure the use of each of the service groups and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.